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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/632,422

08/01/2003

Shaun L. Harris

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01/13/2005

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EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/632,422

Applicant(s)

HARRIS ET AL.

Examiner

Brigitte R. Hammond

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION II

This action is in response to applicant's amendment received on October 26, 2004. In the previous Action the Examiner inadvertently excluded claims 22-27. The Examiner apologizes for any inconvenience the exclusion may have caused.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 22,23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ueno et al. 6,368,121. Ueno discloses a method of electrically coupling two circuit boards, said method comprising: inserting a blade 20 that is coupled to a first circuit board within a spatial gap of a socket 31 that is coupled to a second circuit board such that a first conductive pad and a second conductive pad of said blade that are arranged directly opposite each other on opposing sides of an insulator 21 and that are electrically isolated from each other engage at least a first conductive member and a second conductive member, respectively, of said socket that are arranged on opposite sides of said spatial gap of said socket and that are electrically isolated from each other; conducting electrical signals of one polarity from one of the first and second circuit boards to the other of the first and second circuit boards via the engagement of the first conductive pad and the first conductive member; and conducting electrical signals of a polarity opposite said one polarity from one of the first and second circuit boards to the

other of the first and second circuit boards via the engagement of the second conductive pad and the second conductive member (see figs. 1 and 3 and col. 7, lines 56-66).

Regarding claim 23, one of said first and second circuit boards comprises a power board having a power supply for supplying power to the other board (both boards have power supply contacts 50,51 for a power supply on one of the boards, supplying power from said power board to said other circuit board).

Regarding claim 26, the method of Ueno et al. comprises inserting said blade by an amount within a range of insertion distances, wherein said first conductive pad and a second conductive pad of said blade make electrical contact with said at least a first conductive member and a second conductive member, respectively, at an insertion amount within said range of insertion distances.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno et al. 6,368,121. Ueno discloses the method substantially as claimed. Ueno is silent regarding the amount of current the power supply supplies. However, supplying 25 or 75 amps of current would be merely a matter of obvious engineering choice.

Regarding claim 27, Ueno is silent regarding the exact range of insertion. However, a range of 60 mil. Would be obvious since, would be merely a matter of obvious engineering choice since *it has been held that the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.*

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-21 are allowed.

The statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter was included in the previous Office Action.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Brigitte R. Hammond  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2833